

# RECOGNIZING 188TH ANNIVERSARY OF GREEK INDEPENDENCE

SPEECH OF

**HON. NIKI TSONGAS**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 24, 2009*

Ms. TSONGAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 273 and to honor the people of Greece on the 188th anniversary of their independence. This occasion is truly a celebration of the shared traditions and values of American and Greek democracy.

Over a million Americans, including the family of my husband Paul, claim Greek heritage. This vibrant community contributes to the fabric of our nation and further reinforces the bond between the United States and Greece.

I had the opportunity to visit Greece just last year as part of a Congressional Delegation to the region and saw firsthand the progress Greece has made in bringing prosperity to its people.

Greece has also stepped forward on the international stage to assist others in the pursuit of freedom and democracy. Through their active engagement in international peace-keeping efforts, the Greek people have shown their leadership on the world stage as well as their commitment to the democratic ideals we share.

Our common values have built an unbreakable bond between our two nations. This bond stretches back to the founding of our country and the establishment of the modern Greek state.

It is only fitting that the House of Representatives celebrate the 188th anniversary of Greek independence; express support for the principles of democratic governance to which the people of Greece are committed; and honor the contributions of Greece to the global community throughout its 188 years as an independent nation.

As an original cosponsor of this important resolution, I urge my colleagues to support H. Res. 273 to honor the 188th anniversary of Greek independence and to recognize the essential role that Greek culture has played in the development of democracy around the world.

## A TRIBUTE TO THE MILWAUKEE AREA LABOR COUNCIL

**HON. GWEN MOORE**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 30, 2009*

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the Milwaukee Area Labor Council. The Milwaukee Area Labor Council is the largest central labor council in Wisconsin. On April 1, 2009, the Milwaukee Area Labor Council will celebrate its 50th anniversary as it continues to work for the betterment of the workers in their three county jurisdiction.

The MALC is not only comprised of AFL-CIO member unions but includes dues paying unions in federations such as Change to Win. Further, MALC has strived to include other unions outside these federations as active supporters, encouraging the membership of

federal unions. The MALC works closely with community, retiree, and religious groups in collaboration with such AFL-CIO initiatives as Working America.

The primary mission of the MALC is to support and energize their AFL-CIO affiliated unions in their efforts to organize. Organizing is one of the most important duties they perform and is the engine through which they build strength through membership. However, organizing is not the only function of the MALC. They are politically active in federal, state, city and county initiatives to promote both strong communities and social justice. They research, monitor, meet and support candidates that support working families. The MALC informs and mobilizes their members and strives to support candidates and elected officials who truly help working families. Finally, the MALC publishes the Milwaukee Labor Press, providing important news and motivating labor perspectives to working families.

MALC participates in issues that are important to our community such as working cooperatively with the United Way. The MALC is deeply involved in the annual campaign contributing both strategies and legwork to elevate workplace giving and volunteerism. Union councils and their locals also provide direct help through treasury gifts, volunteer efforts and special charitable support.

MALC also initiates charitable campaigns like the Spring Health and Hygiene Drive. The drive has been so successful in providing health and hygiene products for Milwaukee's homeless shelters that the shelters could reallocate funds for this purpose to other clients needs.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to say the Milwaukee Area Labor Council provides a critical service to the people in the 4th Congressional District. The MALC takes a leading role in charities, legislative work, and social action. The breadth of their membership recognizes the importance of solidarity for all workers and is reflected by the diversity and reach of MALC.

## CONGRATULATING THE MID-OHIO REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION ON ITS 40TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. MARY JO KILROY**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 30, 2009*

Ms. KILROY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) on its 40th anniversary. MORPC has been vital in assisting local governments of Central Ohio to address challenges and opportunities associated with growth and development in the region.

Solving important issues such as transportation, economic development, and energy conservation are vital to our country's success in the 21st century. Central Ohio is grateful to have a long lasting partnership with an organization that tackles these issues and works to solve problems.

The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission partners with over 40 local governments who represent all sectors of central Ohio. Each of these organizations in conjunction with MORPC seeks to improve the quality of life in central Ohio.

Just one of the many examples where MORPC has supported local governments is its work with the state's Clean Ohio Fund. MORPC is assisting the state in restoring and connecting Ohio's natural and urban places by preserving green space farmland, cleaning up brown fields, and improving recreational trails. We have already seen the effects of the Clean Ohio Fund with redevelopment and job creation in central Ohio.

I want to thank MORPC for working with the 44 local partners to ensure prosperity and growth for their communities. I would like to congratulate the leadership of MORPC including Executive Director Chester Jourdan, Chair Dean Ringle, Vice Chair Derrick Clay and Secretary Marilyn Brown.

I acknowledge this historic day with our friends at the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission and celebrate our continued support for their mission. I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating them.

## INTRODUCTION OF THE DAIRY AND SHEEP H-2A VISA ENHANCEMENT ACT (H.R. 1660)

**HON. JOHN M. McHUGH**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 30, 2009*

Mr. McHUGH. Madam Speaker, on March 23, 2009, the Gentleman from New York, Mr. ARCURI, the Gentleman from California, Mr. NUNES, the Gentleman from Utah, Mr. BISHOP, and I introduced legislation, the Dairy and Sheep H-2A Visa Enhancement Act (H.R. 1660). This measure would allow dairy farmers to access the H-2A visa program and codify longstanding regulatory practices used by sheepherders and thus provide certainty to these two industries, which collectively accounted for over \$141 billion in economic activity in 2007.

In New York's 23rd District, which I have the privilege of representing, dairy is an integral component of the economy, with approximately 2,000 dairy farms with some 190,000 milk cows dispersed across the 11 counties that comprise the region. Dairy farmers have long overcome natural disasters and wide farm price fluctuations, such as the current nearly 50 percent decline in the price of milk from just one year ago. However, these difficulties are exacerbated by current labor shortages, which cause farms to either remain static in size, shrink, or make a decision to end a way of life and go out of business. Whether in New York or California, with a herd large or small, dairies need sufficiently trained and skilled labor.

Dairy work is demanding and must be done around the clock, 365 days a year. During the past decade, dairy farms throughout the nation have increasingly experienced difficulty in hiring local workers to meet their needs and, as a result, are ever more reliant upon immigrant labor. The tremendous uncertainty regarding that labor supply has a profound impact on their ability to plan for the future and make sound business decisions.

Under the H-2A program, employers may hire foreign workers to perform full-time, temporary or seasonal agricultural work. However, the H-2A program does not work effectively for dairy because the program requires both

the worker and the job to be seasonal and temporary. Thus, the Dairy and Sheep H-2A Visa Enhancement Act would allow dairy farmers to legally hire foreign workers through the program for an initial period of three years with additional terms of three years thereafter without requiring intervening periods of absence.

The bill would also allow sheep ranchers to hire foreign workers through the program on the same terms and codify those existing regulatory practices benefitting American sheep ranchers that have proven to be extremely successful. For more than 60 years, the American sheep industry has been able to utilize the H-2A program to employ foreign sheepherders.

This legislation is currently supported by the following entities: Agri-Mark, Inc.; American AgCredit; American Sheep Industry Association; California Wool Growers Association; CoBank; Colorado Wool Growers Association; Dairy Farmers of America; DairyLea Cooperative Inc.; Farm Credit Services Southwest; Farm Credit of Western New York; Farm Credit West; Federal Land Bank Association of Kingsburg; First Pioneer Farm Credit; Idaho ACA; Idaho Wool Growers Association; Maryland & Virginia Milk Producers; Montana Wool Growers Association; National Milk Producers Federation; Nevada Wool Growers Association; New York Farm Bureau; Northeast Dairy Farmers Cooperatives; Northeast States Association for Agricultural Stewardship; Northwest Farm Credit Services; Oregon Sheep Growers Association; St. Albans Cooperative Creamery; South East Farmers Association; United Dairymen of Arizona; Upstate-Niagara Cooperative; Utah Wool Growers Association; Washington State Sheep Producers; Western Range Association; Western United Dairymen; Wyoming Wool Growers Association; Yankee Farm Credit; and Yosemite Farm Credit.

As I have previously stated, American dairy farmers and sheep ranchers deserve and need access to a stable source of legal workers. Accordingly, Congress should enact the Dairy and Sheep H-2A Visa Enhancement Act without undue delay.

#### TRIBUTE TO RICK KAPLAN

#### HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 30, 2009*

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, on behalf of myself and the Committee on the Judiciary, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Rick Kaplan, who just recently left the House to take a position with the Federal Communications Commission. Mr. Kaplan served in the Office of the General Counsel for 14 months as an Assistant Counsel. We will miss him.

Mr. Kaplan provided invaluable legal advice and representation to our Committee, particularly in connection with a landmark lawsuit that resulted in a decision recognizing the judicial enforceability of congressional subpoenas to executive branch officials. I and my staff relied on his expertise and guidance both in connection with the many tactical and strategic decisions we were required to make in the course of this important case, and in drafting the legal briefs that were filed in court setting forth the Committee's positions.

Mr. Kaplan played a significant role in safeguarding the legal and institutional interests of the House of Representatives. He served the House with great distinction, and we know he will serve the Federal Communications Commission with that same level of distinction. On behalf of the Committee on the Judiciary, we thank him for his service to the House and extend to him our very best wishes for his continued success.

#### HONORING MR. MICHAEL H. DAVIS

#### HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 30, 2009*

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today to honor the life of Mr. Michael H. Davis, a man I was honored to work with for many years serving the people of Baltimore County. A brilliant strategist, respected advisor, trusted friend and esteemed attorney, Mike's intellect and passion made a strong impression on everyone he met.

Born and raised in Baltimore, Maryland, Mike always strived to better himself and the world around him. His mother, a homemaker, and father, a Baltimore police officer, instilled in him a great sense of civic duty and a conviction to never forget about the little guy.

Mike was someone who believed in the power of education and discipline. Until his graduation in 1978, he attended The Gilman School on Roland Avenue on scholarship. It was there he met Nick Schloeder, a tough coach and brilliant teacher, who spurred his passion and early interest in the political process. Mike went on to attend Harvard University, a true testament to his academic discipline, graduating with a Bachelor's degree in Economics and Political Science in 1982. From there, he returned to Baltimore to attend the University of Maryland Law School, while simultaneously working on Mayor William Donald Schaefer's reelection campaign.

Mike soon began his career as a lawyer with Smith, Sommerville & Case, and then with Venable LLP. His extraordinary work ethic and knack for problem solving soon earned him the position of Partner at Venable. Though he was leading a successful law career, Mike never strayed far from local politics. He worked on three of Senator Paul Sarbanes' successful campaigns in 1988, 1994 and 2000.

Shortly after my election to the office of Baltimore County Executive in 1994, Mike became my Executive Officer. Mike was instrumental in countless accomplishments for Baltimore County and was a gifted advisor. One award Baltimore County was especially proud to receive was Governing Magazine's selection of Baltimore County as one of the Top Four Best Managed Counties out of 3,000 counties nationally. He was also responsible for helping Baltimore County secure three Triple A Bond ratings during my term. A strong proponent of education, he was responsible for developing a volunteer program partnering county employees with elementary schools, and the School Resource Officers program. Mike's priorities and values were obvious in his work ethic and his accomplishments. After leaving my office, Mike went back to work for Venable, but remained active in politics, advising and sharing his wisdom.

Michael Davis achieved much in his short life but his greatest pride was his family. His wife, Ann, of 24 years was the love of his life and an incredible source of strength. His son, Robert, and daughters, Jessica and Blair, are a tribute to the values he cherished, and the type of father he was. Madam Speaker, I ask that you join with me today to honor the life of Michael H. Davis. His legacy as a brilliant political advisor will be matched only by the memory of his devotion to his friends and family. Even though Mike has passed from this life, the memory of his friendship will remain eternally in the minds and hearts of those he knew and the lives he touched.

#### EARMARK DECLARATION

#### HON. MICHAEL R. TURNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 30, 2009*

Mr. TURNER. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the House Republican standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 1105.

1. Project—Lynchburg Police Department Police Equipment Replacement and Modernization

Requesting Member: MICHAEL R. TURNER  
Bill Number: H.R. 1105 Division B  
Account: COPS Law Enforcement Technology  
Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Village of Lynchburg

Address of Requesting Entity: 155 South Main Street, Lynchburg, Ohio 45142

Description of Project: Funding will go toward the replacement of outdated police cruisers and will support the inclusion of necessary, modern equipment that will support law enforcement in this community.

2. Project—Employment Training for Reentering Offenders—Turning Point Applied Learning Center

Requesting Member: MICHAEL R. TURNER  
Bill Number: H.R. 1105 Division B  
Account: OJP-Byrne Discretionary Grants  
Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Turning Point Applied Learning Center, Inc.

Address of Requesting Entity: Turning Point Applied Learning Center, Inc., 110 Homestead Ave., Hillsboro, OH 45133

Description of Project: Funds for this project will go toward the workforce retraining of ex-offenders in rural Ohio who lack a GED and are seeking basic employment skills and documented work history.

3. Project—Holes Creek, West Carrollton, OH

Requesting Member: MICHAEL R. TURNER  
Bill Number: H.R. 1105 Division C  
Account: Construction  
Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Miami Conservancy District

Address of Requesting Entity: 38 E. Monument Ave., Dayton, Ohio 45402

Description of Project: Funds will go toward the construction of a levee and floodwall to protect 13 commercial and industrial properties north of the creek, and purchase three flood prone properties south of the creek and remove the structures, completing this flood protection project.

4. Project—Ohio Environmental Infrastructure, OH, City of Hillsboro, OH